

Understanding Intent and Impact of the Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) Independent Assessment (IA)

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (**MDHHS**) contracts with Maximus to administer the state's Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (**QRTP**) Independent Assessment (**IA**). QRTP assessments are conducted for eligible children to determine appropriateness of receiving care in a QRTP. A QRTP is a residential treatment setting for children and youth with serious behavioral or emotional needs. Typically, significant risk behaviors should be present in order to require the clinical level of care that a QRTP is federally required to provide. QRTPs make use of a trauma-informed care model to address needs of children with serious emotional or behavioral disturbances, facilitate family participation in treatment (when appropriate), and provide aftercare support for 6 months post-discharge.



What is the interview process like?

To complete the QRTP assessment, the **Assessor** must work closely with the child's **Permanency Team**. The **Caseworker** is responsible for providing Permanency Team member contact information at the time of referral. This information is used for the Maximus Assessor to contact for team member interviews, which is an important step in advocating for the child's strengths and needs, and ultimately identifying the child's appropriate level of care. Questions to expect as part of the interview process are:

- How is the youth doing in school? In their current placement or treatment setting? With friends?
- Does the youth have past or current legal charges or involvement?
- Are there concerns about the youth's sexual development?
- Does the youth typically make good choices?
- Is the youth having trouble with their feelings or actions? If yes, what does that look like for the youth?
- What treatment services has the youth received? What has worked well in meeting his or her needs? What has not worked well?
- Does the youth's caregiver have the ability to adequately supervise the youth? Is the caregiver involved in the youth's treatment? Does the caregiver have any identified supports?



What is the interview timeline?

Assessors have a short window of time (**5-7 calendar days**) to complete the interviews associated with all referrals. Returning calls/emails/voicemails when received from Maximus assessors is a vital step to participate in the interview process. Please also note, because Maximus is in contact with MDHHS and a covered entity, a Release of Information (ROI) is not required for interview participation.



Have additional questions?

For any questions regarding the interview or referral process, contact the Michigan QRTP Help Desk:

Email: MichiganQRTP@maximus.com

Phone: 833.664.7787

About Maximus

Since 1975, Maximus has partnered with federal and state agencies to meet legislative mandates and operational improvements. The company sets the industry standard for delivering high-quality, innovative, and value-driven healthcare access solutions, including specialized clinical assessment tools, configurable information systems, and comprehensive project management services. Engaged in FFPFA since its enactment, Maximus also provides similar QRTP assessments in Indiana and North Dakota. [Click here to learn more.](#)